

HISTORY 102
World History from 1500 to the Twentieth Century
2010-2011

Prof. C.R. Friedrichs
Mr. Soma Banerjee
Mr. Allen Chen
Mr. Alex Ong
Ms. Adriana Reynoso

PRIMARY SOURCE ASSIGNMENT (Due October 21/22)

In this assignment you will be writing a short essay in which you discuss what the text by Banarasi, *The Ardhakathanaka (Half a Life)*, reveals about some important aspect(s) of life in northern India in the first half of the seventeenth century as demonstrated by the experiences of this author and/or people whom he knew or described. Your essay should deal with one or possibly two aspects of Indian life. You may choose to focus on any one of the following aspects or two closely related aspects. You may also focus on some different aspect(s) of life with the approval of your tutorial instructor:

- Marriage (e.g. how marriages were made/how spouses interacted with each other/etc.)
- Family relationships (e.g. how parents interacted with children/etc.)
- Friendships (e.g. how friendships were formed/how people used friends/etc.)
- Economic life (e.g. how people made a living/how economic activity was regulated/etc.)
- Government (e.g. how political conflicts and/or local officials impacted everyday life)
- Law and order (e.g. how crimes were detected/how criminals were dealt with/etc.)
- Religion (e.g. how people worshipped/how religious views changed/etc.)
- Travel (e.g. where and why people undertook trips/etc.)
- Attitudes towards life and death

The text of your essay should be *approximately 1,000 words* in length.

You are not expected to use any other sources in writing this paper. Your paper should show what conclusions can be drawn about the aspect(s) of Indian life you have chosen on the basis of this primary source. Support your findings with specific examples and references from this text.

Note: The author of this text belonged to a religious minority and naturally he wrote a lot about the customs and experiences of his own group. However, like members of most minority groups, he also observed and wrote about the larger society in which he lived. So you may also be able to draw some conclusions about the experiences of other groups in northern India during his lifetime.

The paper is due *in your tutorial* on October 21 or 22. The grade for the paper will be given on a percentage basis. Except in cases of documented medical or family emergencies, there will be a *late penalty* for papers submitted late. (For papers received up to 4 p.m. on Monday Oct. 25, there will be a 5% deduction; for papers submitted thereafter an additional 1% a day.)

See the next page for information about references and other technical aspects of your paper.

Bibliographical Reference and Page References

Your paper should include a full bibliographical reference to the work you are using, in the following form:

Banarasi, *The Ardhakathanaka*, in Mukund Lath, ed., *Half a Tale: A Study in the Interrelationship Between Autobiography and History* (Jaipur: Rajasthan Prakit Bharati Sansthan, 1981), pp. 1-97.

As in all papers, you must give page references for all quotations, paraphrases and other specific information. In most history papers this is done by using footnotes. However, since this paper will be based on one source, you may give page references right within the text of your paper, like this: (p. 18).

Guidelines in Case You Use Additional Sources

You are *not* expected to use any material other than this source. You should be able to write a good primary source analysis based on this text alone. However, some students may come across relevant information in other sources and might wish to mention that information. If for any reason you do choose to make use of any source material other than this text, then you must cite the source(s) in footnotes and you must list any such source(s) in a short bibliography. Examples of the correct style for any such footnotes and bibliography can be found in the *Footnote Guide* on the course website.

Legibility, Orderliness and Backup Copies

- Your paper must be submitted as a hard copy, not by e-mail.
- The text should be double-spaced with standard (1-inch) margins.
- Last-minute corrections should be made neatly in ink.
- ***Number the pages of your paper.*** (If there is a title page, the first page of actual text is p. 1.)
- ***Staple or otherwise securely fasten the paper.*** Don't use paper clips!
- ***Save the text of your paper on your computer.***